



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MAY 1989

Volume 32, Issue 5

MAY MEETING

The next meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, May 17th, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, top floor, Third and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. This month Bill Wakeland will show slides of a club trip to the Arrigetch Area of the Brooks Range. Bill's slide shows are always a treat, so try not to miss this one.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- May 20 O'MALLEY PEAK
Round trip about 6 miles, elevation gain 3000'. Class C. Bring ice axe.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 20-21 EKLUTNA TRAIL CLEARING
Semi-traditional spring trip to clear a trail that members use a lot. The plan is to brush out the approach to Eklutna Glacier on the left side of the river, if we get Park Service permission. Best to use mountain bikes to get around the lake. Class A.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 26-29 SHEEP VALLEY
Leave Friday night. Optional climb of Lava Peak. Class B.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 27-28 WILLAWAW PEAK
Round trip about 16 miles, elevation gain 3000'. Class C. Bring ice axe.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- June 2-4 LOWER RUSSIAN LAKE to RESURRECTION CR.
Leave Friday night. 31 miles one way. Class C. 55 Ways No. 8.
Leader: Alan Shayer 277-9085
- 17-18 FLATTOP
Solstice overnigher on the summit. Traditional. Class B.
No leader.
- June 24-25 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN
Class C-D.
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309

- 30- AMPHITHEATRE MOUNTAINS
 July 4 Tangle Lakes - Paxson area, over 4th of July. Class C-D.
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829h 261-4565w
- 30- McCARTHY BIKE TRIP
 July 4 Mountain bike trip and possible raft trip or Root Glacier trip.
 Leader: John Baker 274-0105
- July 8 HOMICIDE PEAK
 Mountain bike through Powerline Pass and scramble up this Chugach
 climb. Class C.
 Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 16 HIDDEN PEAK
 Round trip 6 miles. Elev. gain 3000'. Class C.
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 22- KATMAI TRAVERSE
 Aug 5 Cross the Alaska Peninsula from Katmai Bay, on the Shelikof
 Straits, to Brooks Camp via the Valley of 10,000 Smokes. A
 two-week trip, with time to explore the mountains and photograph
 bears and go fishing. Class C-D.
 Leader: Don Hansen. 279-0829
- Aug 21-28 SIXTH ANNUAL HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
 Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether an afternoon or several weeks, give Don Hansen a call at 279-0829. H and C Committee: Don Hansen, Chairman, B. Wakeland, A. Shayer, J. Baker, N. O'Donnell, W. Hersman.

ADZE

Climbers wanted:

Looking for climbers with moderate (or less) snow/ice abilities for a 7-day custom trip to the North Fork of the Eldridge Glacier. The trip begins June 28th, the guide is Brian Okonek. \$1300 includes everything. Possible climb of Mt. Mather. Looking mostly for a fun group.
 Call John Thorsness 274-5259.

Still in the business:

Lowell Thomas, Jr. no longer owns T.A.T. in Talkeetna, but will still fly climbers, etc. out of Anchorage. Operating as Thomas Air now, his new number is 346-3468.

Go to Yo:

Jim Eason is looking for rock climbers to join him during his stay in Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows between mid-June and July 4th. Call 337-3515.

Peak Registers

Registers ready to go:

Benign Peak
Byron Peak
Indianhouse Mt.
Pinnacle Peak
Whiteout Peak

Information sheets ready to go:

Government Peak
Gunsight Mt.
Matanuska Pk.
Tikishla Pk.
Mt. Williwaw

Registers to be typed still:

Blacktail Rocks
Elliot Peak
Peril Peak

Registers needing paper/pencils:

Ptarmigan Pk.
East Twin Pk.
Wolverine Pk.

Going to one of these places?
Call Willy Hersman 338-5132

New Funding Opportunity for the MCA

We have recently been added to a list of non-profit organizations which receive funds from Sanctuary Travel Services. Their unique program allows the MCA to earn 20% of all commissions made by the agency as a result of bookings made by our members and supporters, this amounts to about 2% of the total cost of your travel!

Whenever you need to travel, call

Sanctuary Travel to make your arrangements and when they ask you which non-profit group you wish to support, tell them The Mountaineering Club of Alaska. It's free money, and it's easy! Sanctuary Travel has been running this program for almost three years and has been able to raise over \$75,000 for environmental and conservation causes in Alaska! They are located at 3701 East Tudor Rd. and can be reached at 561-1212 (toll free from any of the states at 800-247-3149).

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TRIP REPORTSDirty Harry

Mike Miller

March 12, 1989 Dave and Amy Whitelaw and I headed around Eklutna Lake to the glacier for some ice climbing. On the right side of the canyon about 1/2 mile past the outhouses and before the glacier is a wall covered with ice. There are five or six distinctively different falls ranging in difficulty from grade II to III and lengths from 100' to 200'. I led up what looked to be the most difficult (and unfortunately also the most brittle) climb, and with some simultaneous climbing with my belayer, Amy, I made the belay at the top in some alders. Expecting that these falls have not been climbed before, we named this one "Dirty Harry", grade III 200'. After Amy and Dave came up

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we set a rappel in another bunch of alders and rappled to the bottom with a little downclimbing. Dave then started up a grade II (150') solo, which he named "A Fistfull of Snargs", and I soloed a grade II (150') which I named "The Good, Bad and The Ugly." There are many good quality climbs in this area that can be done in one day with the use of a snowmachine. or ATV.

The Scandanavian Peaks and Matanuska Hut Site

Tom Choate

After the considerable interest aroused in this area by earlier visits and recent hut proposals, two groups visited the upvalley side in late March. Dan's group picked a site where the glacier draining the south face of Sweden Peak joins the Mat Glacier.

Our group had intended to climb an 11000-foot peak at the head of this eastern fork but high winds forced us to land and establish camp at 5800, below the icefall and opposite the side glacier site. This was 1 1/2 hours above Dan's camp and a reunion took place even before our snow walls were complete. The next morning was still windy but reasonable, so we began hauling our sleds up through the icefall on wind-crusting snow. Unfortunately the last man found a hidden crevasse which the rest of us had crossed and pulled his surprised partner backwards, skis and poles useless to anchor on the crust. After an hour of extraction we retreated to camp, with only a sprained back to nurse.

Blizzard activity set in for much of the night and next morning, but we skied over to a hut site during a lull about mid-day and climbed the little peak (6430) at the forked end of the side glacier. The fourth day started fairly clear so two of us headed for Peak 8870, which is the high point between Sweden and Denmark. What is shown as Denmark on the topo may not qualify as a separate peak (with only 400 feet between it and 8870). The wind picked up during the 4 1/2-hour scramble up tundra and rock rubble (we avoided the obvious snow gully route because of possible slabs at the top). Views of Marcus Baker and the divide were partly obscured but spectacular and the Scandanavian Peaks impressive. Many eight and nine thousand-foot peaks are available from the valley to the south, leading up from a northerly hut site at its junction with the Mat Glacier. We could verify the topo, showing that Norway Peak is also not really a separate peak, but a 400-foot bump on the ridge of Finland. The naming of this group was clearly done from below and is surprisingly inaccurate. So, in case of the slight possibility that this is a first ascent, Gary Lawton and I suggest the name Greenland Peak for 8870 (since that island belongs to Denmark). Denmark was called "Pharaoh Peak" by the Okonek party in 1976 (Scree, Mar 76).

With a minor injury sustained on the way down the rubble and more dubious weather as an excuse, we all flew out the following day. I made a careful examination of a hut site at the mouth of the "Scandanavian Glacier". It not only has reasonable access for those who don't appreciate the long 2-day trip in and out (current cost \$75 per trip by supercub). Extensive tundra and many smaller peaks make this a superior day-climbing area, with better weather than the upper site. The latter is more remote and more directly accesses the icefall and main divide peaks on the fork away from Mt. Marcus Baker. No doubt this summer will see more activity here.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

The April '89 meeting was held on the 19th and called to order by vice-president Jerry Minnick, sitting in for our beloved president John Baker, who was out of town on business. Guests and new members were welcomed. The slide show was presented by Rick Maron and Larry Williams and covered several river trips in Alaska, some outstanding slides were narrated in a fluid, entertaining fashion. Thanks Rick and Larry!

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$3688.80
Checking Acct	-	854.64
Petty Cash	-	<u>51.53</u>
Total		\$4594.97

COMMITTEES:

Training Committee. Tim Neale is having a basic mountaineering class on April 22-23.

Hut Committee. Gretchen encouraged volunteers to help with the hut program, like carrying materials and so on. The sale of t-shirts to support the hut cause was discussed and some details on hut expenses, including maintenance. The recorder did not catch everything, but the t-shirts were approved as a fund-raiser.

Dan O'Haire presented a slide show on the proposed new hut site on the Matanuska Glacier. Gretchen will be gone all summer, so any interest in the new hut should be directed to Willy Hersman.

Parks Advisory Committee. Todd Miner encouraged us to speak out on the issues concerning the Hatcher Pas area, to be developed by a large Japanese concern. He feels too much is not healthy and would not fit in with the area. For example, condos, dude ranches, motocross circuits, heliports. Todd supports a non-motorized area to preserve the natural charm, which we came to appreciate. He passed out information.

OLD BUSINESS:

The climbing wall is making progress, on paper anyway. Kincaid looks like the most favored location.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wayne Mushrush has talked to the Park Service about establishing a trail to a rock-climbing area near the Seward Hwy. Apparently, a required

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**For more information call 786-1468
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Classes requested by the community
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permit shall be forthcoming and Wayne needs volunteers to help blaze the trail. If interested, please call Wayne at 338-3688.

Dave Mason is in the hospital in Seattle for bone marrow transplants and can be contacted via Todd Miner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Sennhauser

Climbing Notes

Update on the two Everest trips... Vern's group had to leave China due to the political unrest, no climbing was done. George Rooney and company have been having problems with pneumonia, etc. Also bad weather. Bob Jacobs appears to be the only Alaskan with a chance for the summit at this writing.


ALPINE ANIMALS - A SERIES OF NOTES

Tom Choate

NO. 4 The Rosey Finch

Rarely is there a more truly alpine bird than the grey-crowned rosey finch. In the Rocky Mountains I found it nesting in crevices in rock hundreds of feet above timberline. It seems much commoner in the tundra of the Alaska Range than in mountains around Anchorage. Eilsen Visitor Center in Denali National Park is probably the most easily accessible place in Alaska to watch it.

Lovely pink to reddish feathers on wings and rump make the male more conspicuous and stand out from the rocks or tundra where they breed. Several seem to nest near each other and the area around the steep nesting rocks is filled with their distinctive twittering when they are active. Like most finches, they are primarily seed-eaters along the ground surface, and they frequent bird feeders at Homer in the winter. You will find them chasing insects (sometimes on snow banks where they are trapped by the cold) in the later part of breeding season (July) where they need this high-protein source for feeding their young. Watch for these bright birds!



**On Kahiltna Glacier
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7,000' Level There Is:**

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